REMARKS

Claims 12 and 16-18 are pending and at issue in the application with claim 12 being the independent claim. Claims 12 and 16-18 have been amended. Claims 13-15 have been cancelled. As a result, 1 independent claim remains in the application as previously paid for, and four total claims remain in the application as previously paid for. A charge of $120.00 from Deposit Account No. 13-2855 is included herewith pursuant to 1.17(a)(1) to cover the surcharge for a one month extension of time. The applicants believe no additional fee is due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to deposit account number 13-2855. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the remarks below is respectfully requested.

The official action begins with objections to the specification. The applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments overcome such objections and therefore request withdrawal of the same. In particular, the abstract has been amended to remove the objectionable language, namely "The disclosure". Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that the abstract includes proper language and format, and the objections to the specification have been overcome. No new matter has been added.

The official action also includes objections to the drawings. The applicants respectfully traverse such objections and therefore request withdrawal of the same. In particular, Figure 1 shows an example of a data processing unit 30. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that the existing drawings show every feature of the claims in compliance with 37 CFR 1.83(a).

The official action further includes objections to claims 14-16. The applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments overcome such objections and therefore request withdrawal of the same. In particular, claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled and claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 12. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that the objections to claims 14-16 have been overcome.

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 12-18 as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 12 and 16-18 have been amended to correct antecedent basis. Claim 15 has been cancelled. The applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the scope of claims 16-18, in that claims 16-18 recite additional language directed to the method of claim 12 (e.g., sending the RequestID, confirming each function message, repeating the function message) with the communications

device or the remote data processing unit performing such steps. In addition, the applicants respectfully submit that the term "function messages" as used in the claims is of sufficient definiteness so as to render the scope of the claim clear to one of ordinary skill in the art. In other words, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the communication device associates function messages with events without having to recite the source or manner of arrival of the function messages at the communication device. To require such additional language would only serve to limit the scope of the claim rather than clarify the claim. However, the breadth of a claim is not to be equated with indefiniteness. See MPEP 2173.04. Accordingly, the applicants submit that the term "function messages" provides sufficient clarity to one of ordinary skill in the art. The applicant further submit that all claims comply with the written description requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Turning to the claim rejections, the applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 12-18 as unpatentable over Ogilvie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,344,796) in view of Porter (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,053). The applicants submit that amended claims 12 and 16-18 are not rendered obvious by Ogilvie et al. and Porter, in that the combination of Ogilvie et al. and Porter fails to disclose all of the limitations of amended claims 12 and 16-18. Neither Oglivie et al. nor Porter disclose or suggest performing certain functions at the parcel compartment system using a communications device and performing other functions at a remote data processing unit.

In particular, Ogilvie et al. does not disclose or suggest executing functions corresponding to functions messages at a remote data processing unit. Although Oglivie et al. discloses a storage bin depot 10 and a central operations controller 20, the central operations controller 20 is provided locally with the storage bin depot 10. A central operations center ("OPS") maintains the central operations controller 20. (See column 3, lines 53-59; Fig. 2). As shown in Figures 3 and 4 of Oglivie et al., the storage bin depot 10 and the OPS center are provided as a single component. Ogilvie et al. does not disclose that the OPS center or the central operations controller 20 is remote from the storage depot 10. As such, neither the OPS center nor the central operations controller 20 is the recited remote data processing unit and Oglivie et al. cannot disclose executing functions corresponding to functions messages at a remote data processing unit as recited by claims 12 and 16-18.

Even if the central operations controller 20 or the OPS center of Oglivie et al. could be considered remote from the storage bin depot 10, events are not associated with function

messages at the storage bin depot 10 and sent to the central operations controller 20 or the OPS center, where the functions are executed at the central operations controller 20 or the OPS center. Instead, the central operations controller 20 or OPS center appears to associate events with functions *and* execute the functions. (See column 6, lines 27-45). For example, the OPS center associates locking a bin with customer notification and consequently notifies the customer. (See column 2, lines 45-49; column 5, lines 41-43). In another example, the OPS center associates an expected package with customer notification and consequently notifies the customer. (See column 5, lines 22-24; column 6, lines 32-37). Still further, the OPS center associates a shipment ready for pickup with a function that the OPS center then executes. (See column 6, line 56-59). In column 5, lines 38-43, a entering a code to a unit 22U is associated by the OPS center with customer notification, and the OPS center notifies the customer. In yet another example, the OPS center associates locking a bin with delivery pick up notification, and consequently notifies the delivery agent to make a pick up. (See column 5, lines 49-53). As such, Oglivie et al. does not disclose or suggest associating events with function messages at a communications device provided with the parcel compartment system, and separately executing the functions at a remote data processing unit, as recited by claims 12 and 16-18.

Further, Ogilvie et al. does not disclose or suggest combining function messages into a single request and sending the single request having a RequestID from a communications device of a parcel compartment system to a remote data processing unit. While the central operations controller 20 of Ogilvie et al. receives various signals, only simple signals are transmitted to the OPS center. For example, locking a door merely provides a trigger signal to the OPS center. The storage bin depot 10 neither combines several such signals into a single request nor sends such a combination of signals to the OPS center, whereby the signals are provided with a RequestID. (See column 6, lines 27-59). Instead, the signals provided by the storage bin depot 10 merely indicate that an event has taken place, but are not otherwise combined with other signals or associated with a RequestID. As such, Oglivie et al. does not disclose or suggest combining function messages into a single request and sending the single request having a RequestID from a communications device of a parcel compartment system to a remote data processing unit, as recited by claims 12 and 16-18.

Likewise, Porter fails to make up for the deficiencies of Oglivie et al. While Porter discloses a controller of a compartment system connected to a transmitter, the controller and

transmitter are both provided locally with the compartment system. Porter does not provide a remote data processing unit which receives function messages from a communication device provided with a parcel compartment system. Consequently, messages are always stored at the local controller (i.e., the parcel compartment system), and the local controller executes every notification or function to be carried out as a result of an event at the parcel compartment system. As such, Porter does not disclose or suggest combining function messages into a single request, sending the single request having a RequestID from a communications device of a parcel compartment system to a remote data processing unit and executing functions corresponding to functions messages at a remote data processing unit. , as recited by claims 12 and 16-18.

In addition to not disclosing each and every element of the claims, Oglivie et al. and Porter do not disclose the advantages and benefits associated with the claims. In particular, performing certain functions at the parcel compartment system using a communications device and performing other functions at a remote data processing unit allows events at the parcel compartment system to be processed locally without establishing a connection to a central data processing unit at the time of the event. The events can be evaluated and combined into one single request that, for example, is only transmitted to the central unit at a particular time. The later distinction between the particular transportation/delivery companies and users can be made in the data processing unit, because it may be considered less important for the local procedures at the parcel compartment system, and the form in which various users or delivery companies are informed does not have to be stored in the parcel compartment system. By dividing execution of actions as a function of events, it is possible for each parcel compartment system to comprise a communication device that only accesses information for the technical processing of events at the parcel compartment system. For example, when several parcel compartment systems are being operated, all kinds of events occur whose processing requires various types of information. However, with the method of claims 12 and 16-18, the information does not have to be stored in its entirety in the parcel compartment system or in its entirety in a central data processing unit. While Oglivie et al. and Porter provide local controllers, the parcel compartment system executes all functions and requisite actions autonomously, which provides the disadvantage of configuring the communication means of each parcel compartment system. This causes the systems to be very large and complex, thereby requiring constant updating with the current information. On the other hand, storing all information or performing all functions in a data

processing unit, even if remote, is disadvantageous for some applications since a signal has to be sent to the data processing unit for every event at the parcel compartment system.

Accordingly, neither Oglivie et al. nor Porter disclose or even suggest the method of data transmission between a parcel compartment system and a remote data processing unit, as recited by claims 12 and 16-18. Consequently, neither Oglivie et al. nor Porter provide any of the advantages obtained by the methods of claims 12 and 16-18, and therefore does not render any of the claims obvious. Therefore, neither Oglivie et al. nor Porter., either alone or in combination, renders any of claims 12 or 16-18 obvious.

Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentable over the art of record and allowable as indicated in the official action. In light of the foregoing, the prompt issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the examiner have any questions, the examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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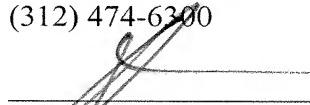
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